

# SACRED DANCE GUILD JOURNAL

www.sacreddanceguild.org

SPRING 2007

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## Many Faiths, Many Forms Dancing the Sacred Together

The time is getting closer for Festival 2007, July 17-22 in Berkeley, California! We're very excited about all the wonderful workshops and events we have lined up for you. You can find a registration form elsewhere in the Journal or register online at [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org). Travel is easy with two major airports (San Francisco and Oakland) within 30-40 minutes of the Festival. See our special page of travel information on the website!

In the Winter Journal we gave you information about our five In-depth presenters: Axis Dance, Carla DeSola, InterPlay, Albirda Rose and Mahea Uchiyama. In addition, we have more than 25 presenters bringing you exciting different forms of dance from choreography suitable for Christian worship through Japanese Butoh and Buddhist Mudras from Nepal. There will be an interactive workshop on the History of Dance in the Christian Church and another one on the history of the social justice movement known as Hip Hop! Warm-ups from Pilates to Tai Ji; African Dance, African Drumming, and Middle Eastern Dance from Egypt. See the Festival Daily Schedule elsewhere in the Journal for a more complete list. Some of our presenters have written short articles elsewhere in the Journal; go to the website at [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org) to see a full page of information about each of the presenters and their workshops.

We will also have a panel discussion on Dance in the Liturgy

organized by Susan Olsen whose recent Ph.D. Thesis, *If Necessary, Use Words: Modern Dance as Critical Contributor to Liturgical Renewal* spoke to the issues of dance in the liturgy especially faced by those in the Catholic Church, but certainly relevant to all denominations and other faith traditions as well. This panel should be of help to those who face discrimination against dance in their congregations.

### Special Events

From our opening "tea party" through our closing ritual at the Faculty

*Continued on page 9*



## THIS PROGRAM CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

The Northern California Chapter of the Guild has three youth groups that have group membership. We are eager to have these young people at our festival, but festival attendance is expensive for young people. We have set up a sponsorship program where folks can contribute a lot or a little to help us bring at least two young people from each of these groups to the Festival, and young people from youth dance groups from other than Christian traditions as well, to share their dances and traditions with us and with each other.

We hope to have those young people who are from Northern California and who are attending Festival get together before Festival to get to know each other and share some of their activities. Any other youth who come to Festival will be more than welcome to join this group for any specially planned activities. We would like to urge other youth from all over the country, and the world, to come to Festival if they can. Perhaps your chapter or dance group can raise money to send one or two of your young people. All youth, of course, will be free to take any of the workshops or classes.

For more information on how to contribute to this program see the information on sponsorship opportunities elsewhere in the Journal!



# President's Letter -

## Celebrating the Past, the Present and the Future

The Sacred Dance Guild is turning 50! On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Sacred Dance Guild will officially celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On that day 50 years ago, a small group of dedicated and forward thinking people who were active in sacred dance and were members of the "Eastern Regional Sacred Dance Association," gathered together for their annual meeting in Winchester, Massachusetts. This insightful group realized the geographical restriction of their name and voted henceforth to be called the SACRED DANCE GUILD.

Your Board of Directors has designated February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 as the beginning of a "Golden Jubilee," a year filled with celebrations which honour the past, present and future of the Sacred Dance Guild: There are many ideas that have been put forth for consideration for initiatives and events that could happen during that year – in addition to the International Festival.

This is a very exciting time for our organization. The 50<sup>th</sup> provides us a "golden" opportunity - a time not to be missed – a time to celebrate with as many people as possible, a time to publicize our organization, a time to educate the public that "Dance is a Sacred Art" and a time to make ourselves known both to potential members, to potential supporters and to potential sponsors. We must make the Sacred Dance Guild known to those individuals and organizations that would financially support our organization and must ensure we are discovered by those

who would choose to become members – particularly encouraging young people to join us.

In reviewing the material from the Sacred Dance Guild's 3-year Strategic Planning process, which began in 2003 and concluded in 2006, we can summarize that members believe that the Sacred Dance Guild's objectives are to be:

- \* An advocate for dance as a sacred art

- \* An umbrella organization for the many forms of sacred dance (cultural, spiritual, religious, movement therapy, etc.)

- \* An organization that provides members an opportunity to network, share and learn with and from others involved in sacred dance

There are still many opportunities and initiatives that we could undertake that would greatly improve our efforts so that others would know who and what we are! We have recognized that in order to be a sustainable and viable organization on into the next 50 years we must consider and evaluate new options. The Board has begun discussions to see what the next moves should be to facilitate the creative energies of our members through engaging others who have the specific skills and talents to assist us.

Come and celebrate with us.

Stella Shizuka Matsuda, President



The Board of Directors met near San Diego, CA on February 16-17 at the home of Emmalyn Moreno. Although blizzards and storms threatened to prevent members from flying in from back East, they were able to attend and enjoy the sunny skies of California. The next Board meeting will be before Festival '07 in Berkeley, CA, on July 16, 2007. All members are welcomed to attend.



### Board of Directors

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The JOURNAL is the official publication of the Sacred Dance Guild, a non-profit international corporation, founded in 1958, and providing members with information and opportunities for enriching their faith through movement and dance. Reprints of articles in the JOURNAL are by permission of the Editor only. The Directory is intended only for the use of Guild members in carrying out the activities and purposes of the Guild.

**Policy Statement** The Sacred Dance Guild recommends and encourages its members to list their SDG affiliation when presenting workshops and performances. However, the Guild letterhead, logo and name are to be used only in connection with official Guild business and activities, as endorsed by a Chapter Board, Regional Director or Guild Executive Board. Official address: Sacred Dance Guild, P.O. Box 1046, Laurel, MD 20725-1046. Editor's address: Toni' Intravaia, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901. © Sacred Dance Guild, Inc. All rights reserved. ISSN 1043-5328. Sacred Dance Guild Web Site: [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org). Corporate subscriptions to the JOURNAL are available for \$35. Membership to the Sacred Dance Guild is also available for the following rates: One-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$50.00; Two-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$80.00; One-Year Student Membership \$25; One-Year Senior (65+) Membership \$35.00; One-Year Group Membership \$90.00 and Life Membership \$1000.00. For Non-Members, the JOURNAL is \$35.00 per year. Members receive:

- Sacred Dance Guild Journal published three times a year
- Membership Directory with geographical and leadership listings printed annually
- Calendar of Events published in the Journal and online with regional, national, and international activities
- Membership in Chapter or Region with local events and activities
- Reduced fees at the International Festival held annually in different locations within the United States
- Reduced fees at Guild workshops and those of reciprocal organizations
- Reduced cost for all Guild publications
- Opportunity to be listed as a resource in the Online Resource Database
- Opportunity to create your own website to be linked to the SDG website
- Ability to sign up for email reminders for events listed on SDG Event Calendars
- Opportunity to be part of the All Members list where sacred dance issues, concerns, and ideas are shared among members from all over the world

Subscription and membership orders should go to Sacred Dance Guild, PO Box 1046, Laurel, MD 20725-1046.

Deadlines for JOURNAL: August 15, November 15 and March 15. Deadlines for the Events Calendar are the same as for the Journal. Articles of 500 words or less, dance activity, Chapters/Region/membership news, letters and black and white/color photographs should be sent by deadline dates to: Sacred Dance Guild Journal: [journals@sacreddanceguild.org](mailto:journals@sacreddanceguild.org) or Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901.



# EDITORIAL

Volume III *And We Have Danced* is ready for the printer, BUT I still do not have photos from you for this book! I have made calls to several members for pictures for the cover and will take some that have been in the *Journal*.

This issue theme "Many Faiths...Many Forms...Dancing the Sacred Together" has brought interesting articles. And did you either watch the Sacred Dance Guild Web Site or did you get a beautiful post card about the upcoming Festival 2007 on July 17-22 in Berkeley, California?

All of our Sacred Dance Guild members are busy at this time of year with the many faces of Faith as they move for and with that Faith. And your editor is no exception. The Motion Choir of Saint Francis Xavier is preparing for the Dance

of Miriam for Holy Saturday. Perhaps the theme of the Fall issue could be Seasons of the Year in Dance.

Time still passes so quickly. With former President Gerald Ford's death, we send our love and sympathy to Betty Ford, honorary Sacred Dance Guild member. Many of us are in wonder as we also move our way into that eternal dance.

Please continue to send your news, as well as dates for the Calendar of Events, to [journal@sacreddanceguild.org](mailto:journal@sacreddanceguild.org) or Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, and send your news from chapters to Emmalyn Morena, PO Box 357, San Luis Rey, CA 92068 and from regions to Patricia Bowen, 32 Fairbalm Street No. 2, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S7A3. The deadlines are August 15, November 15, and March 15.

# Letters to the Editor

From Carla DeSola, Berkeley, California

Community Dancers, co-taught by myself and Sylvia Miller-Multia, contributed beautifully to several liturgical events; and Omega dancers continued in their tradition to serve in a variety of religious settings. We were honored to perform at Grace Cathedral in the installation of Bishop Marc Handley Andrus on July 22. I was commissioned to create a dance (I Have Seen the Lord; a Mary Magdalene Sequence) along with a commissioned score. It was an exciting liturgical venture and very well received. I was also deeply engaged this past Spring with reconstructing a dance first performed at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC in 1986 - Sojourner Truth! At last I had the performers to handle it, and the dance

still proved to be prophetic! It was adapted for a cast including a dancer, singer, and actress (all from the GTU) with performances at the Church of the Fellowship of All Peoples and The City of Refuge in San Francisco, as well as for the senior chapel at PSR. We hope to continue offering it in the coming year.

As you must be aware, most churches cannot afford to offer what is needed to pay for rehearsals and performance fees. We turn to you for your assistance and thank you for making both the courses and dances possible. We encourage your continued and enhanced support in 2007-2008. Your financial support and personal input make you a co-creator in all our programs.

# In Memoriam

Virginia Huffine (MN) died of cancer on December 23, 2006 at the age of 84. She joined the Sacred Dance Guild in 1962 and worked with Rev. Robert Storer in Massachusetts. Over the years, she served our organization in many capacities and presented solo and group choreographies in churches and social service venues.

A trained dancer with expertise in East Indian dance and other ethnic forms, she often incorporated multi-cultural elements in her works. She and her husband, Coy Huffine, relocated and finally settled in Rochester, Minnesota, where she founded the Seraphim dance company. She was a performer, choreographer, and artistic director of Seraphim. She faithfully gathered and reported news of sacred dance events in the Minnesota area. Her involvement in promoting dance as a



religious art form and supporting the Guild will be greatly missed.

Members wishing to express condolences to the family, or to reach Coy, should direct their communications to Jerry Huffine, their son, at 2679 Brookdale Lane, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.

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# Many Faiths...Many Forms...Dancing the Sacred Together

## CONNECTING THROUGH DANCE

*By Kristin Rose, Youth Director*

I can still remember the moment. There I was: beige leotard, gold-sequined tutu, cute bear tail, fuzzy felt ears, still small enough to play in McDonald's Playplace (that was a long, long time ago!) - I was surrounded by girls that were dressed exactly like me - we were all Winnie the Pooh that day.

Well, actually we were just going to dance to a song sung by Winnie the Pooh. It was my first dance recital. My best friend was in my class. We were two very different people. She'd spend class making faces in the mirror at herself; I diligently did my plies and tendus. We'd spent months preparing for the upcoming moment when we would step on that stage.

I can imagine that at that time my view of the world revolved around that moment. It must have been a big deal if I spent an entire year preparing for it. I went to dance class once a week, practiced at

home under my mother's eye (she probably got tired of having to constantly watch me do plie after plie...after plie - it's just bending your knees), danced with my stuffed animals, and wore that costume around the house as soon as it was in my hands.

Dance class was a time for me to first make friends and then play with them. Play was dancing, laughing, and a whole lot of fun. I had found something I really loved. Where did this love come from? Why did I have fun with these strangers? What was dance to me and why did it connect my life so well. Bottom line: it didn't matter. I was three years old and I was a star!

As I have grown from an innocent, narrow-minded child to a perceptive young adult, I have begun to answer some of those questions through changes that have taken place in my life.

I'm reminded of the first time I

attended church and what subsequently happened through sacred dance. I was in eighth grade and knew little about the spiritual realm, but this day brought an experience that completely changed my idea of spirituality.

Prior to attending church, God was a part of my life but in a much more all-knowing, omniscient way. He just looked out for me, my friends, and my family. He provided the "background" to the morals and values my parents taught me. He was an outsider looking in and taking care of what was needed.

That very first time I entered church, I was immediately approached by a woman (a woman who would become my friend and mentor) who asked if I wanted to join the church's sacred dance group. She had heard from our friends that already attended the church that I was a dancer and wanted to extend the invitation to me. That Sunday evening I began my experience in sacred dance and my idea of spirituality slowly morphed into something very different from previous perceptions.

I began to realize that though God is omniscient, He is not as uninvolved in my life and my problems as I had previously assumed. I grew to form a personal relationship with Christ - I could talk and pray to him before I went to bed or anytime really, I could learn His lessons by reading His book; I could connect in a totally new way through movement, through dance. Dance had always been an outlet for me, a way to escape and experience joy. Dance, in the sacred realm which eventually became all dance, soon became a way for me to connect instead of escape - connect to God. I still experienced joy but this was a whole new kind of joy; it was a whole new level of elatedness.

Perhaps some of you have had similar experiences though sacred dance. I know for me, I can begin to answer some of those questions that didn't matter when I considered myself a star at three years of age. I loved dance because I was using my gifts to glorify God. I had fun with those strangers because many of them became like my sisters through our common relationship with dance. And why did dance connect my life so well; because it forged the way for a personal relationship with Christ, an unending bond with my sisters, and an opportunity to invite others to the dance.

## Free to Jump for Joy

*by Jeannine Bunyan*

When on vacation in Tanzania, Africa 2005, we visited a girls' school. In order to inspire the young students, the women in our groups were asked to tell about their careers. Silently I was wondering how I would explain just exactly what I do? Since an interpreter was necessary, I thought to myself. "Well this will be the true test of my belief that Dance is the Universal Language of Spirit!" So I explained, "I help people discover ways they can express how they feel." Then I taught them a simple dance/song showing how heavy we move when sad, then how we clap and Jump for Joy, when we are happy.

At another village we chanced upon a political rally where people from many villages were congregated. In Africa, dancing seems to be spontaneous at any public event! Each village could be identified by the women's clothing and their particular dance style. Since native dances are simple and repetitive, I was soon copying on the sidelines. Next thing I knew, a smiling woman came over and pulled me into their circle. I joined in happily, repeating their movements and imitating their sounds. I didn't have a clue what I was singing, but it was great fun and they seemed to be really pleased. My co-travelers said it was quite a sight to see a blonde, blue-eyed gal cutting up with the locals. They also commented on how natural I was and wished they could be free and uninhibited.

Yes, we in Dance Ministry are inclined to take for granted how Creative Movement liberates us to "live it up!" We forget that so many people in "developed societies" are imprisoned in their bodies. I believe it is our calling to use our dance gifts to help people integrate mind+body+spirit, so they can feel free to - - - Jump for Joy!



# BUTOH WORKSHOP: A Snail's Path to Ascension

by Judith Kajiware

One spring day I was sitting in my backyard. In the middle of the lawn, a tiny moving object caught my eye. It was a snail painstakingly crawling over each tiny blade of grass. After observing for quite some time, I extended my finger to its shell only to make it cringe and disappear within. Moments later it re-emerged and without missing a beat continued crawling up and down each blade of grass. It never once stopped to wonder where it was going. It just seemed to know.

This experience struck me as very profound—one which demanded my full attention. What was the magical message from this tiny creature? How had it landed in the middle of the lawn so far away from the surrounding plants? Had it already completed half its journey? What within its microscopic consciousness fueled such microcosmic patience and intention? Was it aware that traveling to the surrounding garden could become a life-long journey? Or did it matter?

There is much to be learned from life viewed through the eyes of a lone snail. As intriguing as a snail's journey is the journey of butoh.

Butoh first appeared in Tokyo in 1959, and was immediately repudiated by the Japanese modern dance community as disgusting and embarrassing. Labeled the "dance of darkness," its bizarre, shocking movement gestures were a sordid reflection of post-war Japan. In the midst of nuclear devastation, butoh artists courageously searched for the meaning of immortality. In attempting to transcend the limitations of the physical body, butoh adopted an extremely slow, contorted, grimacing style. In stark contrast to western and Japanese classical dance with its superficial perfection and grace, butoh became an honest, raw reflection of pain and anguish—a beautiful expression of ugliness.

Because of its peculiar style and audacity, the fascination for butoh has spread throughout the world; and decades later, it is still performed as a non-mainstream, counter-culture dance form. Without a doubt, the need to merge the spiritual with the worldly continues to be an enormous challenge. Spiritual activism and global awareness require we openly speak out against the powers of elitism, privilege and intellectualism. As artists, we are responsible for unveiling our Truth. By acknowledging the need from which butoh originated, perhaps we can begin to replace planetary violence with peace, and darkness with light.

As a third generation Japanese American I honor the history of butoh as a

sacred gift to our spiritual growth. In my workshops, butoh honors everyone's dance in a non-competitive, supportive and friendly atmosphere. It brings to our awareness personal discoveries that enable us to remain in a space of simplicity and innocence—without expectations and without judgment. Beginning with a set of simple warm-ups, the butoh journey flows gently from one experience to another. Eventually it ends with its amazing potential to elevate both personal and collective awareness.

Butoh is similar to meditation or prayer. Instead of sitting in a position of stillness, however, the body is engaged in improvisational, slow-motion movement with eyes wide open. Yet the same stillness resides undisturbed within. In this way, butoh nurtures our inner landscape where stories are told, emotions are witnessed, Spirit is renewed, and prayers are answered.

Butoh maintains an element of Japanese aesthetics that is subtle and restrained. It is not outwardly expressive. To be authentic, butoh requires that feelings are felt, though not necessarily expressed outwardly by the physical body. Transmitting non-physically through silent communication, the body becomes the physical encasement of Spirit moving "as if it has no bones."

Whether taking a class, performing, or watching a performance, butoh has the potential to break through the veils of the physical eye. We're forced to see with our spiritual eye. Thus we enter the



Judith Kajiware will teach Japanese Butoh at Festival 2007.

"butohspace," where the body fades, time stops, consciousness expands. We become peaceful and whole—one with each other and the Universe.

*A Snail's Path to Ascension* will provide an experiential space for movement, sharing, and awakening. By going beyond the comfort zone—trusting our bodies, trusting our ability to open up to others, trusting our intuition, and trusting the messages and stories that enter our consciousness—the potential for wisdom is endless.

The eyes of a snail are the eyes of wisdom. One by one, we patiently scale each blade of grass, until our destination is reached.

## Blessings for Betty Ford

by Mary Jane Wolbers

In December, 2006, Sacred Dance Guild members across the nation joined those in the Southern California Chapter to mourn the loss of Betty Ford's husband, Gerald. Our hearts went out to her as we watched the televised coverage of military rituals accorded to ex-Presidents of the US being laid to rest.

Betty was designated as an Honorary Member of the Sacred Dance Guild on November 30, 1976 by Guild President Martha Yates. The award recognized her service to the Guild as evidenced by her interest in promoting dance as a religious art form, and participating in choirs. Gerald Ford was an enthusiastic supporter of his wife's involvement in dance, and particularly in the art form as a dimension of worship.

Betty's dance study began at the age of eight and continued into adulthood. After graduating from high school, she attended the Bennington School of Dance in Vermont where she studied under Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, Charles Weidman and other noted dance artists. Later, she studied with Graham in New York City and became a member of the Graham Concert Dance Group. She has also taught dance to handicapped children.

In May 1976, she returned to Bennington for the dedication of the college art center, and in November that year she presided over the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony at Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, MA. It was at that time she received the Sacred Dance Guild's honor.

Our sincere condolences are with her. May her life in sacred dance be a source of strength and comfort in the years ahead.



# Gifts from Many Cultures Enriching God's People

By Sister Martha Ann Kirk, Th.D.

At Pentecost the Spirit of God was poured out on people of many nations, on old and young, male and female. St. Paul writes, "There is neither Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, we are all one in Christ Jesus." Christian Worship should be a celebration of diversity and unity stretching people's hearts and minds to seek justice and share compassion. This past year at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, we had a Worship Renewal Grant that provided a series of workshops and performances celebrating the breadth of Christianity. The series included gifts from Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Orthodox, African and African American, Asian and Asian American, and the Euro-American traditions. The program was made possible through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. As we focused on



**Dancers of Vietnamese Martyrs  
Catholic Church, San Antonio**

worship renewal in general, we came to recognize the transformative value of dance and drama in prayer.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . .

We have seen His glory. . .

In Wisdom dancing with the Vietnamese until the gentle melodies  
become stronger than the cries of the boat people drowning,

The Word made flesh in stories of people seeking refuge  
after the devastation of Katrina, the displacement of Palestinians,  
the massacres in Sierra Leone,

In the drama of the man born blind who comes to see the Christ  
while the people around the man become blind to Christ's glory,

In the "Amazing Grace" of Korean American children  
playing the song on the instruments of their grandparents,

And the Word became flesh in the womb of Mary,  
imaged as the Nahuatl Guadalupe, and among the native  
people of the New World the Word echoed in songs of hope and dignity,

In the sounds of the ancient chant so close to the Aramaic Jesus spoke  
and strumming of harps and ouds,

In the persistent praise of the African American tradition,  
reverberating with courageous hope in the midst of the challenges,

Yes, we have seen the glory of the Word made flesh,  
the image of the unseen God, prying open our eyes  
to see the Divine reflected in all the peoples of the earth.

Please read an extended version of this article with many color pictures of the dance and drama. Go to [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org), click on Articles, then click on "Gifts from Many Cultures." Sr. Martha Ann Kirk and Bro. Rufino Zaragoza will be presenting a workshop on Vietnamese dance at the SDG Festival this summer.

## Dance Eruption Hawaii: Let the Spirit Play, Let the Lava Flow!

By Lucia Samuels

Sacred Dance Guild Hawaii Chapter invites you to participate in a SDG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance Retreat Celebration, Dec. 28, 2007 - Jan. 1, 2008 at Volcano, Hawaii, on the Big Island. January 2008 marks 25 years of the continuous flow of Kilauea Volcano. Join us over the New Year's weekend at the heart of creation to experience a depth of Hawaiian spirituality, personal awakenings and community building. Our Presenter from Seattle, Betsey Beckman, teacher of SpiritPlay, will lead us in exploring prayer, play and scripture through the gift of dance.

The Big Island Liturgy & Arts Center ([www.bilac.org](http://www.bilac.org)) and Volcano Village's Cooper Center facilities will co-sponsor the event, with affordable nearby historic B&B group-shared accommodations ([www.myislandinnhawaii.com](http://www.myislandinnhawaii.com)). An evening of Dances of Universal Peace in Volcano and a New Year's Eve Community Dance Celebration in Hilo town will also be included in the holiday event.

Join Betsey and other local spirited dance leaders for a lively and reflective weekend celebrating our journey into the new year and our embodied prayers for the turning world.

Direct flights to Hilo, Hawaii are available from Oakland, CA on ATA. Check the Sacred Dance Guild Hawaii web site for updates in coming months or contact Lucia Samuels (808) 969-7991, [LLsamuels@gmail.com](mailto:LLsamuels@gmail.com).

Betsey Beckman, MM, ([www.sacredcenter.org](http://www.sacredcenter.org)) is nationally acclaimed as a spirited dancer, storyteller, teacher of SpiritPlay and dancing Spiritual Director. With her extensive background in performance, movement therapy, ministry and InterPlay, she is regularly featured as artist/presenter at national conventions as well as local churches. Betsey's publications include books, audio-cassettes and videos on embodied prayer and she offers the gift of playful improvisation whenever possible!





## Letter to the Editor of The Phoenix Regarding the Sacred Arts Festival in Phoenixville, PA

By Jan Swarr

This past weekend I was privileged to attend the Sacred Arts Festival held at various venues throughout our community. Sponsored by the Sacred Dance Guild, performers, artists and participants came from as far away as New York, Boston, and yes, even New Mexico. I would like to quote directly from the Statement of Intent for the event: "Intentional variety in faith, culture, origin and art forms will cultivate and awaken the natural dignity and solemn beauty of spiritual realization, whatever its expression". How right they were!

I was unprepared for the literal smorgasbord of incredible talent, all with one purpose in mind - to help us understand each other more and realize, in our search for The Divine, that we truly need one another. The opening dance concert galvanized it right away for me. I watched the faces of the graceful dancers from Avodah Dance ensemble and instinctively knew that although they embraced a faith different from my own, it didn't matter. They could teach all of us something about dedication and inspiration, and that they did. Willingly

and happily outclassed all weekend long by the brilliant performers, I witnessed transformation, inspiration, learning, and brotherhood. I sat at their feet, inspired and teachable. I made new friends and reconnected with old ones. It became clear that each of the brilliant performers, no matter what their faith or affiliation, could have easily chosen Broadway, major recording studios, Motown, or any other commercial venue. Instead, they chose to inspire and heal through the medium of sacred art. Thank God for them, and there is NO pun intended here!

Of course our Kiwanis Community Day was blessed beyond measure as our Reeves Park band shell stage was graced all day long with group after group. I saw and heard instruments I never had seen before. There were classes, workshops, healing circles, special programs for children ... a complete and total offering to help you on your spiritual walk. Those of you who could not attend this year had better not make that mistake next year.

When Atzilut, the orchestra featuring Arab and Jewish musicians in concert together, coupled with The Gospel

Disciples from Chester, combined forces to literally bring down the house bringing home the point that God works through all peoples, you should have been there. We danced in the aisles. We cheered. We wept. We hugged. Truly, we came together.

This event was also one of the best organized events I have ever attended and although the audiences were small, the spirit of the entire weekend was immense. In closing, I would like to quote the Vision of this wonderful event. "The mind-body-spirit connection to the sacred will be explored through music, dance, poetry, storytelling, theatre and fine arts. This festival will encourage the community to recognize the divine in each other, promoting respect, acceptance and understanding. A festival of sacred arts will bring people together in an experience of peaceful and beautiful coexistence, replacing stress with harmony, serenity, and joy." How apropos that the event should be held in Phoenixville, with our rich diversity. How blessed we are! In our journey to become closer to The Divine, may that Higher Power, in the words of the beloved gospel song, truly order our steps.

### Physically Integrated Dance Workshops Taught by AXIS Dancers

By Annika Nonhebel

In March, AXIS Dance Company presented a three day Physically Integrated Dance Workshop taught by Sonsherée Giles and Alice Sheppard. This exciting genre of dance was for people with and without physical disabilities.



Sonsherée Giles and Alice Sheppard

The workshop combined improvisation, creative movement and modern dance techniques to create and explore solo, duet and ensemble material. The focus of these classes was to deepen our capacity for movement invention both in our unique bodies and in relationship to the bodies around us. Adults with and without previous dance experience were welcomed.

A Physically Integrated Dance Masterclass was taught on Saturday. The class focused on creative movement using improvisational dance techniques. This dance exploration was a fun way to learn about yourself as well as heighten your sensitivity of listening to both self and others. We challenged the modern dance canon by asking questions - what is dance and who can dance.

### Sacred Dance at Saint Paul Lutheran Church

By Joann Flanigan

Sacred Dance at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Sarasota, Florida: For their Christmas Eve program, new SDG member Adrienne Summerall danced "Breath of Heaven". Wearing a white top and white skirt, Adrienne was a young breath of fresh air in her lovely solo dance. Her mother, Pam Jorno, was one of the vocalists, and her father John played the piano.

On February 18, former SDG President Joann Flanigan danced "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings)" for St. Paul's Sunday morning Service of Joy. Adrienne and her mother were two of the vocalists while John played the piano.

The dance began as a procession to the altar with the presentation of a white candle for this Transfiguration of our Lord Service. Joann wore a white tunic with flared embroidered sleeves a long black skirt.

Sacred dance has been very well received at Saint Paul's, with many thanks to Pastor Lyle Truitt.



# "Sharing the Light Within Us With Others"

By Elaine Herg Sisler, Skyloom Dancer

Skyloom conducted a series of sacred dance educational and rehearsal sessions with youth representing grades 3, 4, and 5 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, Massachusetts during November and December of 2006. These sessions introduced children to the tradition of sacred dance.

Skyloom has danced at Trinity Church many times over recent years. We felt it appropriate to reach out to the youth of this parish to promote and demonstrate dance as prayer and a means for their spiritual growth. The children were enthusiastic and responsive in rehearsal and the worship service. They danced and prayed with dignity and ease. Skyloom also collaborated with Trinity's music director to select the sermon dance music "Every Star Shall Sing a Carol" sung by a counter tenor from the Trinity choir. Simple tunics were made for the children making it easy for them to change from their choir robes into dance attire.

Skyloom collaborated with the new religious education program director, Janice Yancy, at Trinity Church to:

- Teach children a simple processional to be adapted for future liturgical events.
- Help children create a sermon dance that was integrated into the First Sunday in Advent worship service.



Skyloom Dancers and children

• Instruct, rehearse and prepare the children physically, emotionally and spiritually to perform in a worship service.

• Understand the importance of commitment and cooperation in a group effort.

• Use the art of dance as means of spiritual/aesthetic expression and growth.

Skyloom feels strongly that we were successful in our role of introducing dance as a form of prayer, worship and ritual to the youth of Trinity Church. As a result of the Doane grant project, we guided young people to reflect upon the rich past history of sacred dance and create a new venue for their spiritual growth. Together we learned, created and performed sacred dances in blessed moments of peace and harmony.

It all began with the "Sharing the Light" Workshop. On November 12, 2006, Skyloom dancer Shirley Blancke stood among a group of children with a basket over her head. "What's up with that?" one of the students asked. Lifting the basket to reveal a smiling face, Shirley explained how God wants us to get out from under our baskets to share our light with others. Soon with candles in hand, the young dancers were sharing their light while exploring space, time and force in interesting ways. The students also discussed the concept of processions including football rallies, wed-

dings and parades. In the sanctuary they practiced processing in rhythmic time down the aisles creating a reverent ritual. Their candles were placed in a large basket. Skyloom's Sybille Volz and Ruth Lieberherr danced with the consolidated light sharing it with the congregation.

Together the Skyloom dancers and the children created a Sermon Dance titled "Dancing into the Light". On December 3, 2006 Skyloom danced with a large white silk symbolizing the light of Christ down the center aisle of Trinity Church in Concord, Massachusetts. Several children took turns stepping into and under the light as the silk billowed alternately over their outstretched arms and rounded backs. Skyloom dancers led the children in a series of sways, turns and gestures that synchronized their energies with that of the silk. We were one with the light. Reverently the silk was cradled in the children's arms as they danced back down the main aisle sharing the light, human and divine with the congregation.

This dance in its simplicity seems most appropriate as we reflect on the dark days of winter and war. Perhaps if we are brave enough to seek and dance into divine light we can bring peace and harmony to our troubled world and personal lives.

## HELP WANTED

### Internet

Do you like using the Internet? Exploring sacred dance possibilities? How about ferreting out new music, moves, and people? Want to be the first to find new events for your fellow dancers? I would love to have someone working with me, finding new resources for sacred dancers, and answering questions from SDG members and others who visit the SDG website. Interested? Contact Kat at [pettycrewkd@yahoo.com](mailto:pettycrewkd@yahoo.com) or 856-728-9546.

### Festival 2008

As we begin to dream of Festival 2008, here are a few questions. Don't think too hard on the answers - just send back whatever visions/pictures/ideas pop into your mind!

- Is there a person and/or event that immediately comes to mind when you think of the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration? Someone or something you can't imagine this celebration without??

- Is there something you've either never seen/done at Festival (or seen/done rarely) that would excite you to have at Festival 2008?

- Put down words/thoughts that come to mind when you dream/vision of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration!

Send your thoughts to Wendy Morrell at [wendy.morrell@sympatico.ca](mailto:wendy.morrell@sympatico.ca).

**A ballot is coming in June. It will include a motion for a change in the Sacred Dance Guild by-laws.**

**The Annual Membership Meeting will be held Friday, July 20, 2007, at the banquet at Festival.**



# Festival 2007

Continued from page 1

Grove on the University of California Campus our special events are planned with the idea of developing community. There will be an Improv Dance Party with WingIt, an evening of Dances of Universal Peace, two concerts, and a reception and banquet at Pacific School of Religion.

## Lunch discussion Groups

Do you have a topic you'd like to discuss with other Sacred Dancers? Let us know and we'll schedule a lunch or dinner discussion table for your topic! Email Connie Tyler at [connie@deephum.com](mailto:connie@deephum.com) with your special topic. And save Thursday lunch for a Chapter informational meeting. Chapter members are encouraged to come and find out about the business of being a Sacred Dance Guild Chapter.

## Additional Events and Information:

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday Afternoons, Sharing! A Panel Discussion on Dance in the Liturgy

Youth Caucus

Lunch discussion groups on topics of your choice

College Credit is available through Pacific School of Religion

All workshops and events are subject to change.

## Share your gifts! Announce your talents!

In the next Directory, the 2007-2008 Golden Jubilee Edition, we hope the full range of our members' offerings and talents will be represented. It makes the booklet much more interesting. It shows who we are. It also gives you a full year's exposure, and you can support the Guild by helping to offset the cost of printing this important means of communication.

The options are:

"Member offering": a listing up to five lines long, \$20.

"Business card": If you already have one all you have to do is drop one in the mail or email it to address below: \$45.

1/2 page ad (maximum of 4" high x 4.5" wide): \$75. Email or send a hard copy.

full page ad (printed size 7.5" x 4.5"): \$125.

The deadline is October 1. Don't take a chance on forgetting: if you can't do it right away, send me a note and I'll remind you. Send your offering, card, or ad to: Ellen Roberts Young, 2216 Durango Ct. Las Cruces, NM 88011. Or email to [EllenSDG@cs.com](mailto:EllenSDG@cs.com).

## Help Us Find Festival Sponsors!

Our annual festival is really the only major fund raiser the international Sacred Dance Guild has. For the first 47 years of this organization's life everything we did was done by volunteers. As time went on, the organization and members got older, and didn't really grow. Finally, a couple of years ago, we hired an administrator to at least handle the membership renewals, and book keeping. Peggy Hoffman, a sacred dancer, whose firm, Mariner Management, is our administrator, has done much more than this for us and is also handling the registration and bookkeeping for our Festival.

But to keep paying Peggy, and to work toward more paid help for things like publicity, grant writing, soliciting informative articles for our Journal, etc, our festival needs to make a good profit. One of the ways to do this and still keep our registration fees down is to get sponsors.

Below is some sponsor information.

Please look it over and see if you would like to be a sponsor or know of anyone who might like to help sponsor the festival.

### ADVERTISING & EXHIBITING OPTIONS:

Full Page Festival or Concert Program\* (8" x 5")...\$100

Half Page Festival or Concert Program\* (8" x 5")...\$75

Quarter Page Festival or Concert Program (4" x 5")...\$50

\* Advertise in both and save 10%

Festival Video Sponsor (logo placement only)...\$500

Festival Tote Sponsor (place your logo on bag - limit 15 sponsors)...\$75 each

Festival Tote Inserts (place your literature in attendee bags)...\$75 per item

Vendor Table (Saturday Vendor Showcase)...\$75 (table not included)

Set up sales table. Tables are available for rent from the college.

Festival Store Consignments..... 15% of sales

Sell your item at the store. Sales are split 85% to the seller and 15% to the store.

### SUPPORT THE YOUTH

Sponsor a youth by purchasing a one day ticket.....\$45

(Or contribute whatever you can)

For more information, contact Peggy Hoffman, SDG Administrator at 877-422-8678 or by email [phoffman@marinermanagement.com](mailto:phoffman@marinermanagement.com). All applications must be received by June 1, 2007. Opportunities available on a first come-first serve basis while available and require payment to secure.



**Carla DeSola will teach Beyond Words, An Interfaith Workshop for Peace.**



**Baysic Project Hip Hop Dancers use the specific elements of hip hop, MCing, DJing, breaking, and street art, in schools, community centers, libraries, and live-in facilities.**



# Festival Daily Schedule and List of Workshops!

## Early Morning Warm Ups:

Pilates with Paul Parish  
Tai Ji Quan with Lin Yi Wu  
Yoga with Soyinka Rahim  
Modern Dance Technique with Elizabeth Mendana  
Buddhist Walking Meditation

## Morning Ritual:

A dancing, singing ritual to bring us all into community together.  
When we dance there are no words to separate us.

## Morning In-Depth Classes:

(Five choices of two hour classes)

Beyond Words, An Interfaith Workshop for Peace with Carla DeSola  
Improvising Prayer and Faith with Phil Porter and Cynthia Winton-Henry  
Physically Integrated Dance with Sonsheree Giles and Alice Sheppard of Axis Dance Company  
Prayer Dances, an Introduction to Sacred Dances of the World with Mahealani Uchiyama  
The Influence of African Religions on the Christian Worship Service and Praise Dance, Using Katherine Dunham Technique with Albirida Rose

Participants from Wednesday through Friday will want to stay with the same class for all three days.

## Afternoon Workshops:

Eight shorter workshops every afternoon, of which participants can choose two each day. Several of these workshops will offer opportunities for more in-depth study by continuing for two or three afternoons.

Dance as Storytelling with Betsey Beckman  
Baysic Project HipHop  
History of Dance in the Christian Church with Karen Josephson  
Japanese Butoh with Judith Kajiwaru  
Middle Eastern Dance with Hala  
Dance in the Liturgy with Susan Olsen  
Elements of Performance with Claudia Florian-McCaffrey  
Show Me the Way: Choreography from Alleluia Dance Theater with Stella Matsuda  
Dance as Midrash with Julie Emden  
African Drumming with Emmalyn Morreno  
Dancing the Universe Story with Marlys Tobias  
Erika Thimey Repertory - "Ceremony of Carols" with Sharon Werth & Josephine Nicholson  
Vietnamese Christians Sharing God's Beauty with Sister Martha Ann Kirk & Brother Rufino Zaragoza  
African Dance for Healing with Masankho Banda  
Creative Dance: Touching the Sacred Movement Within with L'Ana Burton  
Dancing Love, Promoting World Peace, a workshop for children with Jeannine Bunyan  
The Dance of Enlightenment with Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya

## Sharing:

Participants are invited to bring a short (no longer than five minutes) dance to share.

## Special Events:

A Special Event every day!  
Tuesday afternoon: Opening Ritual and Tea Party  
Tuesday night: Meet the Presenters  
Wednesday night: WingIt Performance and Dance Party  
Thursday night: Dances of Universal Peace with Perry Pike  
Friday afternoon: Participants Concert  
Friday night: Reception, Banquet and Membership Meeting at Pacific School of Religion  
Saturday night: Sacred Dance Concert  
Sunday morning: Closing Ritual at Faculty Grove on the UC Berkeley Campus

## CEUs Available

The Summer Session program of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, in conjunction with the Sacred Dance Guild's Festival 2007, will offer participants an opportunity to receive both Continuing Education Units (CEU's) and Academic Credit for full participation in the scheduled events of the Sacred Dance Guild Festival's intensive program. Carla DeSola will be administering the program with the summer session office, and will be arranging times during the festival to meet with those interested.

Requirements for CEU's include class attendance and participation. For 1.5 units of credit, twenty (20) hours of class work and keeping a journal. For 3.0 units of credit forty (40) hours of classes, keeping a journal and either a reflection paper in conjunction with the creation of a dance or liturgical sequence or an academic paper including required readings and reflections on theological and spiritual dimensions of sacred dance.

For further details see [www.summer.psr.edu](http://www.summer.psr.edu) or email at [summer@psr.edu](mailto:summer@psr.edu) or call 510-849-8268.



**Baysic Project promotes hip hop values of acceptance, non-violence, creative self-expression, and physical fitness. They help students make a connection between creative self-expression and education.**



## Festival Registration Information

Pre-registrations accepted through July 10. Save when you register by May 31! On-line registration available at [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org).

### Registration Packages *(For group discounts, contact SDG office.)*

#### **Full Festival Package includes:**

- All dance classes, panel discussions and evening activities
- Tuesday Opening & Sunday Closing celebrations
- Friday Evening Banquet & Saturday Night Concert

**By May 31:**     \$375/SDG Member & Youth under 16 / \$425/Non-member

**After May 31:** \$425/SDG Member & Youth under 16 / \$475/Non-member

#### **Weekend Festival Package includes:**

- All classes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- Friday Evening Banquet & Saturday Night Concert
- Sunday Closing celebration

**By May 31:**     \$225/SDG Member & Youth under 16 / \$275/Non-member

**After May 31:** \$275/SDG Member & Youth under 16 / \$325/Non-member

#### **Day Ticket:**

Include classes and sessions for one day which may be used Wed. thru Sat. Evening events are not included but may be purchased separately.

**\$75/SDG Members / \$85/Non-members / \$45/Youth under 16**

#### **Event Tickets:**

Event Tickets are available for the Friday banquet (\$35), Saturday night concert (\$15 adult; \$8 50 Youth) and evening events on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (\$10 each). You may purchase tickets individually or an Evening Event package (\$55) which includes banquet, concert and all evening events. Note: Full and Weekend packages include all tickets - additional purchase not necessary.

### **Room and Board at University of California:**

Single and Double dorm rooms available with meals included. You may select Full Festival Stay (Tuesday thru Sunday) or Weekend Stay (Friday thru Sunday). If you would like to share a room, please indicate roommate on registration form or the registrar will assign you one. If your roommate is a family member or friend who is not participating in the festival, please indicate the name on the registration form. Note you must include full room and board with your registration for this individual.

Housing Packages (inc. Room & Meals)	Price per person
<b>A. Full Festival – Double</b> Arr. 7/17, Depart 7/22; includes 3 Meals W-Th-F-Sa, Tues. Dinner and Sunday Breakfast	\$335
<b>B. Full Festival – Single</b> Same as A	\$425
<b>C. Weekend – Double</b> Arr. 7/20, Depart 7/22; includes 3 Meals Sat, Fri. Dinner and Sunday Breakfast	\$130
<b>D. Weekend – Single</b> Same as C	\$170

### **SDG Membership: Members SAVE!**

To renew or join, add your membership fee to the registration form. For details on the membership, visit [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org) or call 877-422-8679. Dues are \$50 1-yr; \$80 2-yr; \$35 Senior (65+); \$25 Student (FT), \$90 Group (up to 4 group members receive member registration rate!).

**For up-to-date information on sessions, speakers and activities, visit our website at [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org). Direct questions to:**

Connie Tyler, Festival Chair  
510-849-0788 or [connie@deephum.com](mailto:connie@deephum.com)

Peggy Hoffman, SDG Administrator & Festival Registrar  
877-422-8678 or [info@sacreddanceguild.org](mailto:info@sacreddanceguild.org)



## Festival Registration Form

Please complete (separate form for each individual) and return with payment to SDG c/o Mariner Management & Marketing, P.O. Box 1046, Laurel, MD 20725-1046. **Online registration is available at [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org)!** Pre-registration open until July 10.

\_\_\_\_\_  
FULL NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
GROUP (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTRY

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL

☐ Adult ☐ Youth (Under 16)

☐ Female

☐ Male

### Registration Fees

	<i>By 5/31</i>	<i>After 5/31</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Full Registration Mbr/Youth	\$375	\$425	\$ _____
Full Registration Non-member	\$425	\$475	\$ _____
Weekend Package Mbr/Youth	\$225	\$275	\$ _____
Weekend Package Non-member	\$275	\$325	\$ _____
Day Ticket ( <i>circle one</i> ) Mbr-\$75; NonMbr-\$85; Youth-\$45 Qty: _____			\$ _____
Evening Event Package _____ @ \$55			\$ _____
Fri. Evening Banquet _____ @ \$35			\$ _____
Sat. Night Concert _____ @ \$15; _____ @ \$8.50			\$ _____
Evening Events # _____ Tickets @ \$10			\$ _____
Sacred Dance Guild Membership ( <i>see front</i> )			\$ _____
Housing Package ( <i>circle one-see front</i> ) <b>A B C D</b>			\$ _____

\* Room with: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check if non-participating Family/Friend & add room fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Festival Release & Medical Waiver

I hereby agree to waive any and all of my rights and remedies that may arise out of any negligent act or omission of any type on the part of the Sacred Dance Guild in connection with Festival 2007 and any and all claims, damages, bodily injuries, casualty losses and the like, inclusive of any and all costs and fees of any nature, type or kind incident thereto, suffered by me in the conduct of its activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (PARENT/GUARDIAN IF MINOR)

*In case of emergency, please contact:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME / RELATIONSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE

### Publicity Waiver

I hereby give permission for authorized Festival 2007 personnel to record, photograph and/or videotape me during festival 2007, with the understanding that said photographs, recordings and/or videotapes only be used for SDG archives, promotion and/or publicity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (PARENT/GUARDIAN IF MINOR)

### Payment Information

☐ Check (payable to SDG; US Funds/US Check) ☐ Visa/Master Card

\_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
EXP DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

### Cancellation Policy

Full refunds are available through June 15 less a \$50 cancellation fee. After this date, there are no refunds however tuition, room and board are transferable.



## Directory Update

The following have joined the Guild between the time our Directory went to press in October and March 12, 2007. Welcome, new members!

### RECIPROCAL AFFILIATIONS

The Sacred Dance Guild has collegial status with the following organizations: This is a reciprocal agreement whereby members of the Guild may attend activities of these organizations at the same fee their own members pay (proof of SDG membership is required). Members of these organizations may attend Guild activities in the same way.

American Dance Guild, P. O. Box 2006, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021 (212) 932-2789.

International Association for Creative Dance (IACD), 103 Princeton Avenue, Providence, RI 02907, website [www.dancecreative.org](http://www.dancecreative.org).

International Liturgical Dance Association (ILDA) of NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians), 3215 Bellacre Court, Cincinnati, OH 45248-5005 (513) 451-6746.

National Dance Association, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091 (703) 476-3436.

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## Advertise in the SDG Journal

Ad per ONE (1) issue  
One-half page.....\$100.00  
One-quarter page.....60.00  
One-eighth or business card.....40.00

Ad per THREE (3) Issues  
One-half page.....\$275.00  
One-quarter page.....150.00  
One-eighth or business card.....95.00

Classified Ads (SDG members only)  
1-10 words.....free  
11-20 words.....10.00  
21-40 words.....20.00  
40+ words (1/8 page).....40.00

For information or assistance in placing an ad,  
please contact Deena Sherman at  
Deenabess@yahoo.com

A celebration of the life of Nadia Chilkovsky  
Nahumck, pioneer of modern dance was held  
October 14<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## When the Dance comes from your Heart!

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Color:  
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Royal Blue/White

0235  
Cereus  
Jumpsuit/Dress  
Matte lace empire  
jumpsuit with palazzo  
style pant leg and  
inset open seam skirt.  
Matching front back  
panels and bodice.  
Size:  
SA, MA, LA, XLA,  
1X, 2X, 3X  
Color:  
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# SDG CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS

## Arizona

Sacred dance and dance with a message is going strong in Arizona. Ballet Sanctus, directed by Ann Snyman-Blackman, a company well-represented by youth, presents in churches and at weddings and receptions. Well-crafted, spirit-filled-with-a-message presentations are created on these young but talented individuals. Miriam Dancers, out of Sun City, seem to always be presenting and doing good throughout their community - bringing the joy of their messages everywhere! Sally Summey Gebler, a force in the Christian community, presents amazingly passionate solos and renditions of biblical events at Unity of Phoenix. AZDance Group, a Christian faith-based professional contemporary dance company, is currently premiering a new piece, "Passages"; short stories of eternal hope, love found and freedoms celebrated. Also, an audience favorite and most recently seen at the Mesa Arts Center, "Run For Life" is about and for Cancer survivors and their family members. Visit [www.azdance.org](http://www.azdance.org) for full details and upcoming concerts and presentations.

Celebration Dance Concert, directed by Kenda Newbury, features the professionals of AZDance, K. Mockingbird, Grammy nominated flutist of the Dimeh Nation, Jeffrey Polston, Principal Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company and Movement E-Motion, dance program for individuals with different abilities, Friday, May 4 at 7:00 PM, Saturday,



## Agape Dancers at the First Congregational Church

May 5 at 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM at Boulder Creek High School Performing Art Center in Anthem, AZ, 480-215-1916 [azdancegroup@yahoo.com](mailto:azdancegroup@yahoo.com). Amazing Grace concert, directed by Lynne Haeseler, will feature live music, dance and drama at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix May 12, 2007, [lhaeseler@cox.net](mailto:lhaeseler@cox.net).

## Nevada

The Agape Dancers West performed at the First Congregational Church in Las Vegas, NV. They worshiped at the installation of the pastor by offering an interpretation of "Colors of the Wind." The group was formed in January 2006.

## Constitution Chapter

Dance Circles was led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, Certified Dance Leader & Senior Mentor Teacher in PeaceWorks International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace on April 21 at Ambler, PA.

All were invited to dance and sing in sacred circles using simple folk dance movements and melodies from a wide variety of mystical traditions. This workshop was held in conjunction with UNESCO's annual International Dance Day, held on April 29 of every year, which promotes dance as a universal language.

## NY/SW Connecticut Chapter

The Chapter has been holding a series of monthly workshops at St. Stephen of Hungary Church, New York, NY, focused on deepening our faith and spirituality through the tools and discipline of dance. Led by Mary Christine O'Connor-Thomsen, the workshops have been well attended and enthusiastically received. There are two workshops remaining in the series; one on April 15 and one on May 20.

Please note that the Chapter has scholarship money available for those chapter members who may want to attend Festival 2007 in Berkeley in July. Please contact Betsy O'Neill, 212-535-4235, for further information.



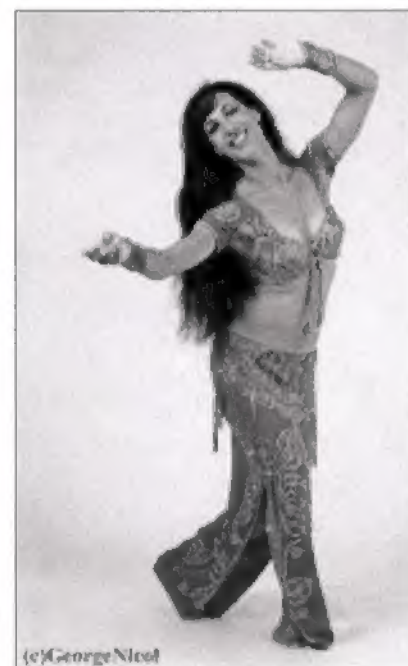
Photo by Patty Kaufman, Its U Photo, Phoenix, AZ

**AZDance Group, Artistic Director Kenda Newbury**

## RECOMMENDED READING

And We Have Danced, Volumes I, II and now we will have Volume III. Carlynn Reed authored the first book, and Toni' Intravaia authored the second book and is

now in the process of having the third volume printed for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Contact her at 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901 for any of the editions.



(c) George Nicol

**Hala will teach Middle Eastern Dance at Festival 2007.**



# CALENDAR

**April 25-29, 2007** - "Dance Alumni 80<sup>th</sup> Homecoming" University of Wisconsin, Madison. Contact: Department of Dance, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

**April 29, 2007** - The NY/SW CT Chapter's Spring Workshop at St. Stephen of Hungary Church. Contact: Betsy O'Neill - Phone 212-535-4235.

**April 29, 2007** - "Moving in the Spirit", Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, Adelphi, MD. contact: www.pbuuc.org or 301-937-3666.

**May, 2007 - April, 2008** - "Dance Education in America" Celebrating our Dance Education Pioneers" sponsored by the National Dance Association.

**June 21-25, 2007** - Barcelona Dance Awards Competition in Paris, France. Contact: dance2006@tiscali.it - Students, Directors - International Competition.

**June 23-25, 2007** - PreCongress Workshop, required before Congress if new to Mettler based creative dance. Sponsored by International Assoc. for Creative Dance (IACD). Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. Contact: Mary Ann Brehm mabdance@aol.com or Lynne McNett mcdance@sos.net.

**June 25-30, 2007** - Creative Dance Congress, Mettler based creative dance, Sponsored by International Assoc. for Creative Dance (IACD). Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. Contact: Mary Ann Brehm mabdance@aol.com or Lynne McNett mcdance@sos.net.

**July 2-20, 2007** - Language of Dance Course, Stevens Point, WI. Contact: Susan Gingrasso: susanlodc@yahoo.com.

**July 7-13, 2007** - "Liturgical Dance" with Carla DeSola, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. Contact: www.summer.psr.edu.

**July 9-14, 2007** - American Dance Guild Festival and Conference, Hudson Guild Theatre, New York City. Contact: www.americandanceguild.org.

**July 11-14, 2007** - American Dance Guild Performance Festival, Hudson Guild Theatre, New York, NY. contact: Gloria McLean, 320 W. 83<sup>rd</sup> St., #7D, NY, NY 10024 or gloria.mclean@american danceguild.org.

**July 17-22, 2007** - Festival 2007 "Many Faiths, Many Forms" University of California, Berkeley, CA. Contact: Connie Tyler connie@deephum.com.

**August 5-20, 2007** - Join Masankho, Phil & Cynthia in Malawi - InterPlay trip to

Malawi, Central Africa with Cynthia Winton-Henry & Phil Porter. Contact: http://www.interplay.org.

**August 26-30, 2007** - Alleluia Dance Theater: Wholistic Retreat for Women at Villa Maria Del Mar Retreat Center, Santa Cruz, California. Contact: www.rejoicead.org.

**December 28, 2007 - January 1, 2008** - SDG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance Retreat Celebration, Volcano, Hawaii. Contact: Lucia Samuels, Llsamuels@gmail.com.

## Executive Board Meetings

July 16, 2007, Festival 2007, Berkeley, CA  
February 15-17, 2008, TBA

SDG Annual Membership Meeting  
July 20, 2007, at Festival, Berkeley, CA

Sacred Dance Guild Web Site:  
www.sacreddanceguild.org

You can apply for membership to the Sacred Dance Guild in three ways: 1) Complete the form and return with your membership dues. 2) Join online at our website, www.sacreddanceguild.org. 3) Email to: Peggy Hoffman (see address below).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
Country/Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:	1 year Domestic/International Membership	\$50
	2 year Domestic/International Membership	\$80
	1 year Student Membership	\$25
	1 year Senior (65+) Membership	\$35
	1 year Group Membership	\$90
	Life Membership	\$1,000

Please make checks payable to Sacred Dance Guild or charge your membership by providing the following information.

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